

**INDIAN CREEK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE INDIANA GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 22, 2024) — In its 39th year of honoring the nation’s most elite high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Libby Dowty** of **Indian Creek High School** is the **2023-24 Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year**. Dowty is the first Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Player of the Year to be chosen from Indian Creek High School.

The award, which celebrates the nation’s top high school athletes for excellence on the field, in the classroom and in the community, distinguishes Dowty as Indiana’s best high school girls cross country player. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport, touting an all-star group of alumni that includes Irene Riggs (2022-23, 2021-22 & 2020-21, Morgantown High School, Morgantown, W. Va.), Katelyn Tuohy (2019-20, 2018-19 & 2017-18, North Rockland High School, Thiels, N.Y.) and Jordan Hasay (2008-09, Mission College Preparatory Catholic High School, San Luis Obispo, Calif.).

The 5-foot-3 sophomore won the IHSAA individual state championship this past season, clocking a personal-best time of 17:06.70 to set a new state meet record. She was also the state’s top prep girl at both the Nike Cross Midwest Regional and the NXN Final, where she crossed the line in 17th to earn All-American honors. Ranked No. 14 nationally in the 2023 MileSplit 50, she also took bronze at the Foot Locker Midwest Regional before finishing 19th at the national Foot Locker Cross Country Championships, making her one of only six prep girls in the country to finish in the Top 20 of both races.

Dowty is a devoted parishioner at Stonecrossing Church and has donated her time as a member of her school’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter. She has also mentored youth runners. “Libby Dowty had a breakout season in just her second year of scholastic competition,” said Rich Gonzalez of PrepCalTrack. “She’s set herself up as someone to watch for nationally as an upperclassman.”

Dowty has maintained a 4.29 weighted GPA in the classroom. She will begin her junior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Dowty joins recent Gatorade Indiana Girls Cross Country Players of the Year Lily Cridge (2022-23 & 2021-22, Bishop Chatard High School), Karina James (2020-21, Lowell High School) and Erin Strzelecki (2019-20, Bishop Dwenger High School), among the state’s list of former award winners.

As part of Gatorade’s commitment to breaking down barriers in sport, every Player of the Year also receives a grant to donate to a social impact partner. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners’ grants have totaled more than \$4.9 million across more than 1,600 organizations.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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